UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/6 (Prog. 3)
7 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1998-2001

Programme 3. Outer space affairs

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Programme 3. Outer space affairs	3.1 - 3.9	2
Subprogramme:		
3.1 Outer space affairs	3.5 - 3.9	3

96-11674 (E) 090596 110596

3.1 The overall objective of programme 3, Outer space affairs, is to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by assisting and collaborating with Member States, in particular developing countries, organizations within the United Nations system, national and international space-related organizations and the private sector in the areas of space science and technology with emphasis on the application of space technology for sustainable development.

3.2 The Office for Outer Space Affairs will be responsible for the implementation of this programme and the achievement of its objectives. The corresponding programme under the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, was programme 8, Peaceful uses of outer space.

3.3 The mandate of the programme lies in the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretariat by the General Assembly, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies.

3.4 The broad approach and direction to be followed under this programme will be as follows:

(a) The provision of parliamentary services to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which serves as a focal point for international cooperation in space activities, its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies, and the Working Group of the Whole on the space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly;

(b) The provision of assistance to the legislative bodies in their role as a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, through the promotion of the applications of space technology for economic and social development and management of the environment;

(c) The provision of assistance in formulation and adoption of legal instruments and standards relating to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and consideration of legal implications of space activities;

(d) The promotion of coordination and cooperation in space activities within the United Nations system and provision of secretariat services to the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

(e) The planning and implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including conducting technical assistance and capacity-building activities;

(f) The implementation of the recommendations of the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the space-related recommendations of other recent United Nations conferences, as well as support in the preparation of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(g) The maintenance, on behalf of the Secretary-General, of the United Nations public register of information furnished in accordance with article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and the dissemination of such information to Member States;

(h) The analysis of space-related issues and emerging trends, including the relationships between space science and technology and socio-economic development at the national, regional and global levels;

(i) The collection and dissemination of space-related information.

Subprogramme 3.1 Outer space affairs

3.5 A major objective of the subprogramme will be to provide Member States and space-related governmental and non-governmental organizations with information, expertise and other requirements necessary for expanding international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and contributing to the development of international space law. This will enhance international cooperation in the application of space technology for peaceful purposes and in scientific space research and ensure that the benefits of space activities are available to all countries. This will support the objectives defined in the Agenda for Peace (A/47/277-S/24111) and the Agenda for Development (A/48/935), as well as in the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in space activities for enhancing security in the post-cold-war era (A/48/221).

3.6 A second major objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the national and regional capacities of developing countries in the applications of space technology and to enhance cooperation between developed and developing countries in space science and technology through the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the mandate of which was expanded by the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Secretariat, in close collaboration with Member States and with other international organizations, will continue to undertake training and fellowship programmes and to provide technical advisory services in the planning, implementation and evaluation of technical assistance projects. Other major activities will include implementation of follow-up projects to the activities of the subprogramme and pilot projects in various areas such as remote sensing, satellite communication, satellite meteorology and basic space science, and the provision of assistance to the regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated with the United Nations.

3.7 A third objective of the subprogramme will be to deepen the understanding of the international community of ongoing space activities and of the role that space technology can play in economic and social development by promoting the establishment of global databases to enhance policy-planning capacities. To that end, the Secretariat will continue to maintain and improve the International Space Information System (ISIS) by issuing various space-related publications and by utilizing computer technology to disseminate information. ISIS will provide information on the results of the follow-up and pilot projects mentioned above and other activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as well as other space programmes, in accordance with existing intergovernmental agreements.

3.8 A fourth objective of the subprogramme will be to increase the use of space technology within the Organization for conducting activities in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. It will therefore aim further to promote cooperation and coordination among organizations within the United Nations system in various space activities and to implement space-related recommendations of recent United Nations conferences.

3.9 Implementation of the activities of the subprogramme is expected to result in

(a) Enhanced international cooperation in space activities at the global, regional and local levels;

(b) The formulation and adoption by Member States of legal instruments and standards governing space and space activities;

(c) Improving the indigenous capabilities among Member States for utilizing space technology for economic and social development;

(d) Improved capabilities for the study and analysis of measures for expanding international cooperation in space activities, in particular through the exchange of space-related information.